

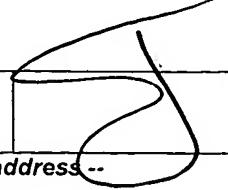


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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 10/601,306 | 06/23/2003 | Christopher Bangle | 080437.52447US | 7952 |
| 23911 | 7590 | 11/23/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| CROWELL & MORING LLP | | | GUTMAN, HILARY L | |
| INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| P.O. BOX 14300 | | | | 3612 |
| WASHINGTON, DC 20044-4300 | | | DATE MAILED: 11/23/2004 | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/601,306 | BANGLE ET AL.  |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Hilary Gutman | 3612 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-59 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-6, 11-13 and 28-48 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-3, 7, 8, 10, 14-17 and 59 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 9, 18-27 and 49-58 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 23 October 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/23/03</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of species E in the reply filed on 10/20/04 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 4-6, 11-13, and 28-48 are hereby withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 10/20/04.

Priority

3. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. The information disclosure statement filed 6/23/03 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of each patent listed that is not in the English language. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Drawings

5. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the auxiliary power of claim 8; the taillight of claim 18; the magnetic coating of claim 19; the low friction coating of claim 27; the

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coating of claims 49 and 53-57; and the actuators and sensors of claim 52; must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

6. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Objections

7. Claims 51 and 54 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 51, line 2, the acronyms “PES” and “PEN” should be the full names of each of these types of fibers for clarity.

In claim 54, on line 1, the acronym “UV” should perhaps be “ultraviolet”.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims 1-3, 7-10, 14-17, and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fasel et al. (6,378,932).

For claim 1, Fasel et al. disclose a section of a body of a vehicle comprising: a flexible material outer skin (Figures 13-16) that is tensed at least over one part of a frame (or opening) of the vehicle, and at least one mechanically moveable adjusting element (such as air ejection and suction devices seen in Figure 4), provided beneath or on an edge of the outer skin, enabling the outer skin to be deformed.

With regard to claim 2, the flexible material outer skin has elastic properties.

With regard to claim 3, the flexible material outer skin can absorb impact energy during an accident.

With regard to claim 7, the at least one adjusting element (Figure 4) can be moved in a translatory manner.

With regard to claim 8, the at least one adjusting element is moved by an actuator 10 with auxiliary power.

With regard to claim 9, the at least one adjusting element is movable as a function of the vehicle speed (Column 7, lines 1-4).

With regard to claim 10, the outer skin in a rear area of the vehicle can be deformed in such a way that it generates an aerodynamic negative lift similar to a rear spoiler (Figure 13).

With regard to claim 14, the adjusting element forms a spoiler, and wherein the adjusting element and a surrounding area on a body side are covered with the flexible material outer skin.

With regard to claim 15, the spoiler and the surrounding area on the body side are designed such that, regardless of the position of the spoiler, no marginal sections of the spoiler become visible in the flexible material outer skin.

With regard to claim 16, the surrounding area on the body side is a conventional tailgate (or motor vehicle trunk) with a recess for the spoiler (as evidenced by dashed lines).

With regard to claim 17, the spoiler forms at least partly a rear edge of the tailgate.

For claim 59, Fasel et al. disclose a process of changing a configuration of a section of a body of a vehicle having a flexible material outer skin (Figures 13-16) that is tensed at least over one part of a frame (or opening) of the vehicle, comprising mechanically moving at least one adjusting element 10 (Figure 4) provided beneath or on an edge of the outer skin so as to deform the outer skin.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 9, 18-27, and 49-58 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hilary Gutman whose telephone number is 703-305-0496.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Dayoan can be reached on 703-308-3102. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

13. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

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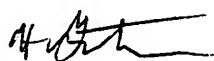
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9326, (for formal communications intended for entry)

or:

(703) 746-3515, (for informal or draft communications, please clearly label
“PROPOSED” or “DRAFT”).



Hilary Gutman
November 17, 2004